THE Sweet-Singers of Israel, Or, The Family of Love.

BEING

A True Account of the Base Principles, and Prophane Practices of an Upstart sort of *Religionists*, who Deceive the People.

These have been lately Suppressed by Authority, and hinder'd from keeping their usual *Conventicle* in *Moor-Fields*; but are yet so incorrigably Impudent, as to Sow their Ridiculous Tenets in *Southwark*, and many Obscure Places in and about this City, to the great Danger of many Ignorant People: Whom to undeceive, we present this Candid Account of their Lives and Religion.

Yet, notwithstanding some Means us'd for their Suppression, they still keep their afore-said Meetings on *Sundays*, *Mondays*, *Wednesdays*, and *Fridays*; at one *Reeve's* a Victualling-House, in *Sun-Dyal Alley*, near the *Cart* in the Wall, in the Lower *Moor-Fields*.

With Allowance.

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A True Account of their Fake Principles, and Prophane Practices of *The Sweet Singers of* Israel, &c.

THat thou may'st not expect (*Honest Reader*) any thing Profound, or Authentick, to proceed from these pretended *Sweet-Singers of* Israel; I thought fit, as a Preparative to what else thou art likely to hear, to Acquaint thee, That the Head *Bel-wether*, or *Ring-leader* of this Sawcy *Sect*, is at this time a Close-Prisoner for speaking Blasphemy. He, I suppose, participating of the Diabolical Nature, as well as Opinion, made it his business to draw others into the same Miserable Predicament with himself, by insinuating his Wretched Sentiments into their Belief: And though so notoriously False, that even a Child may Refute them; yet so willing is the Giddy-headed Vulgar to Club to their own Ruin, that they cannot hear a Man with a Brazen Brow, and Graceless Impudence, pronounce any absurd or prophane Doctrine, but they readily shake Hands both with their Reason and Education, on purpose to Believe it.

Now, as the most Hellish Designes are generally Gilded with the faireſt Pretences; ſo it is obſervable in all the Hereſies ſince the *Reformation*, there has been in the Front or Threſhold of them, ſomethings Adapted to the Humour of the People, on purpoſe to allure them to Swallow the reſt: Which theſe People looking upon as a Policy, neceſſary to the Promotion of Theirs, have been ſtudious in inventing many Baits of this Nature; which we think fit to diſcover, leſt any one enamour'd with the Golden Out-ſide, ſhould ſwallow the Poyſon that dwells Within.

At your firſt Entrance or Initiation therefore, into their Company; upon your Examination, What they are? and, What they Profeſs? they ſhall freely tell you, *They are the FAMILY OF LOVE; and the reaſon they call themſelves ſo, is, That they are in Love with all Men, without any Diſtinction, whether* Jews, Turks, *or* Infidels; *and endeavour their Salvation:* That if any of theſe becomes of their Opinion, he ſhall *Certainly be Sav'd:* Yet they tell you, *They will not urge or conſtrain any one to be of their Belief; but to leave all Men to the Innate Dictates of their own Conſciences.* Yet, to aſſure you, There is more than ordinary in their *Profeſſion:* They have a little Diminutive Fellow, with a Long Beard, whom they call, *Father Abraham:* He pretends to have been for ſome conſiderable time, a Sorjourner in Hell; and to make himſelf Admirable among the Credulous Crowd,

Crowd, sticks not to affirm, He knows every *Devil* there, can call them by their Names, and is Acquainted with all their Negotiations here on Earth; with a Thousand more Ridiculous Stories of that Nature.

And to be more pliant and futable to the present levity of the Age, these People will shew you a more facete or divertive way to Heaven than ever yet was heard of. You shall be deny'd nothing, if you will be of their Opinion, Community of Women, or a Carnal Knowledg of each others Wives, they hold Lawful: You may drink as you please; Swearing, they hold as an Attestation of the *Deity*, and so rather a Duty, than a Sin; Curfing they say, is a Collateral acknowledgment both of Heaven and Hell; and in short, there is no Vice, but they have a pretence for its Legality; nor no Debauchery, but they Ice, or cover over, with the specious pretences of *Religion*.

Are not these, honest *Reader*, Pleasant Sweetning ways to delude the Multitude? How much more grateful is this Libidinous Doctrine, than that of *Contrition*, *Self-Denyal*, and *Repentance*, which all Churches in all Ages have hitherto Taught!

But all this, Alas, Is nothing to many Absurdities they Profess. For not withstanding they, under these pretences, give themselves over to all *Excess* and *Rout*, yet they have the impudence to boast they are Immaculate as the Angels themselves; and where as the frantick *Quaker* holds a temporal perfection, or a possibility of Living without Sin; these men, (because they will out-doe all

the impudence that ever went before them) hold that they cannot Sin if they would; not but they are liable to the same Temptations with other Men; but that the property of the Act alters by their doing of it: Which in effect is as much as to say, they may steal, and not Sin; Murder, and not Sin: and in short, for that certainly was the bottom of him, who invented it, be Thieves, and not Sin: Which is so obvious and shuddy a fallacy, that he who has but half an Eye left in his understanding, may easily discern it.

Nor are their Practices less notorious than their Principles; for, instead of Worshipping God with that Humility and Reverence which the Church of *England* commands, & all good men ought to obey; They make Ale-houses and Brothel-houses the places of their Conventions: Where, instead of Prayers, and Humiliations, they Drink, Swear, and Smoak; Sing obscene Songs in Psalm-Tunes; and Divine ones, in Ballad-Tunes. Tell the people they are assur'd of Salvation; and that, whoever becomes of their Opinion, shall in a short time be so too: That they need no *Ordinances*, being already so Perfect, that none but the Almighty himself is able to instruct them ——: with much more Ridiculous stuff to the same purpose.

Behold (honest Reader) what a Worshipful sort of Religionists are here! What Hector, Ruffen, or Malefactor, need dispair of going to Heaven, if

if this be the way to it? But to unravel these profane pretenders to Sanctity, I shall in short, give thee a true Character of them: which is, that they are indeed no other than a company of Debaucht viciated *Atheists*. Who after all their Clutter of Sanctity and Salvation, to my Knowledge, hold, *That there are neither rewards nor punishments to be expected after Death*; but that every one ought to make the best of this Life, and consequently not to start or boggle at any Vice or Sin that may conduce to his pleasure or satisfaction. This honest Reader, is the Reality of their belief, and I hope sufficient to fright thee from their Damnable society.

FINIS.